

**Governor's Community Achievement Award**

**Community Leadership and Coordination:** During the second full-year of Keep Navasota Beautiful, KNB's hard work and dedication continues to provide inspiration and promote beautification, source reduction, and recycling throughout the community! The Keep Navasota Beautiful (KNB) Commission consists of fourteen city and county residents appointed by the Navasota City Council. KNB has maintained successful partnerships with numerous agencies and organizations including: the Navasota City Council, Chamber of Commerce, Merchants Association, Youth Commission, Navasota ISD, Cemetery Committee, Navasota Public Library, Texas A&M's Alpha Phi Omega, Municipal Judge, Grimes County officials, Prairie View A&M, Texas A&M, Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, (TCEQ), Texas Department of Corrections, Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) , TXDOT, Grimes County Master Gardeners (GCMG), JMG, local media and many local businesses, churches, and community organizations. KNB partnered with fellow KTB Affiliate Keep Brazos Beautiful (KBB) in support of their annual tree sale fundraiser. This was KNB's first ever fundraiser, which raised \$534.00 and promoted the planting of 176 trees locally. This partnership helped KBB promote the planting of 1,098 trees in the Brazos Valley, with 48 trees donated to Brazos Valley Habitat for Humanity. KNB, an affiliate member of KTB, is funded through the City of Navasota and fundraisers. Staff support is provided by the city manager, director of public works and City employees. During the past year, KNB raised a total of \$1,501 through donations, tree sales and recycling programs. Working together, KNB was able to document 5,348 volunteer hours of community cleanup and beautification projects. KNB members are encouraged to attend environmental training sessions, workshops and the KTB Convention. KNB was recognized for fulfilling the mission of KTB by receiving 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the *Governor's Community Achievement Award* category and the *KTB Award of Excellence* in 2003. Two KNB members attended the KTB Annual Convention in July, with the mayor, city manager, and 3 KNB members attending the convention's closing luncheon. Eight volunteers consisting of KNB members, staff and the Municipal Judge, attended KTB basic training. A KNB member attended the KTB Awards Training in Galveston and served as judges for the 2002-2003 Keep Texas Beautiful Awards and Texas Arbor Day Poster Contest Judging.

**Education:** Two Arbor Day planting ceremonies were conducted at the Navasota Intermediate School, where a 15-gallon Live Oak and Bur Oak were planted honoring the “School Winner” of the poster contest. The student was recognized by the City Council and received a certificate and a t-shirt with her poster printed on the front. One hundred thirty-five tree saplings were provided by the TFS and given to students at the Arbor Day event, with instructions on how to plant and care for the trees. KNB members worked with 5th grade teachers to promote the Texas Arbor Day poster contest and 21 poster contest entries were judged by five members of the Navasota Parks Board. KNB volunteers utilized the “Waste In Place” garbage pizza activity to teach over 50 children attending the Navasota Public Library’s summer reading program. KNB promoted the DMWT Scholarship with the media and the high school to generate interest. A Grimes County 4-H student demonstrated “How to make Compost” to over 45 of her peers as her “method demonstration project.” Five NISD teachers attended a PLT workshop sponsored by the TFS, and the local Boy and Girl Scout Troops received litter education and instruction on how to earn their DMWTTO and L&RCU patch. Over 80 students in Pre-K through 3rd grade participated in KNB’s DMWT Coloring Contest. Three winners from each grade received ribbons and prizes donated by local merchants, and their artwork was displayed in the windows at City Hall. Two KNB members, dressed as a “littering witch” and a “wasteful skeleton,” visited 1st graders and distributed 225 *Keep Navasota BOOtiful!* trick or treat bags while reminding children not to throw their candy wrappers on the ground and to recycle their bag into a bookcover. On Halloween, KNB participated in the downtown *Treats on the Streets* event and distributed over 1,000 TRD pencils and bookmarks, 250 TRD fact sheets and 200 coloring books. The Retired Teachers Association supplied materials to 83 High School students who participated in the TRD Recycled Art Christmas Ornament Contest sponsored by KNB. Winners were recognized by the City Council, received prizes from the Grimes County Chamber of Commerce, and had their ornaments displayed at the City Hall Christmas tree.

**Public Awareness:** Thirty-nine press releases were sent to the two local newspapers, television station and radio station. The city manager promotes a KNB project or policy during his monthly two-minute radio address. KNB members recorded 10 public service announcements with local radio station 1150AM for TRD, Navasota’s Community-Wide Cleanup and DMWTTO. During the week leading up to TRD, KNB gave away 25 yards of

compost to the winners of the TRD trivia contest held by a local radio station. At the Grimes County Christmas Parade, the City's parade float promoted both a recycling and anti-litter message featuring a dump truck, a cedar tree housed in a chipper, and "*The Grinch*" who brandished a "*Make Navasota Ugly Like Me*" sign, and the Cat-in-the-Hat waved a sign that read "*Don't Litter, Don't Be A Grinch – Keep Navasota Beautiful.*" KNB members walked beside the entry wearing their litter vests, carrying KNB logo printed trash bags, picking up litter and handing out 47 DMWT decals and 23 car litterbags. Each month, KNB alerts the media of extraordinary beautification and conservation efforts made by local citizens or groups with the "*We've Noticed...*" award and a photo opportunity with KNB. KNB continues the monthly *Business Beautification and Improvement Award* as a means of saying "thank you" to those business owners who spend extra effort landscaping their businesses or improving their storefronts. Fifteen KTB decals were placed on City vehicles. In order to promote the Navasota Spring Cleaning Program, City staff and KNB held 6 neighborhood meetings in area churches and public facilities. Citizens attending these meetings were provided with information on the Community-Wide Cleanup, DMWTTO, litter prevention, code enforcement, recycling programs and KNB's newly-created Adopt-A-Street program. Door prizes of 5 yards of compost were awarded to encourage attendance at these meetings.

**Litter Prevention and Cleanup:** "SPRING CLEANING IN NAVASOTA," this year's KNB cleanup program, was promoted through the radio, newspapers, and 2,064 mailings to residents during the months of March and April 2004. SPRING CLEANING resulted in the collection of 212.71 tons of waste materials, 36 car batteries, and 1,574 tires. The tires were disposed of by Firestone Tire Company, a GAC National Sponsor, as part of their commitment to the GAC effort. Through partnership with Firestone Tires, the City and KNB saved \$3,184 in disposal fees this year. SPRING CLEANING included the annual Community-Wide Cleanup, the Navasota Public Library grounds workday, the Primary and Elementary Schools' DMWTTO Coloring Contest, the DMWTTO, and "It's Take-Out, Not Toss Out" campaign. It also included the Cedar Creek Cleanup performed by prisoners and Scout Troops, the Texas Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony, and the compost incentive program. Eight hundred twenty-six households took part in the Community-Wide Cleanup by placing large, bulky items at the curb for collection and disposal by City crews. Fifteen hundred pounds of litter was collected at the

DMWTTTO and Cedar Creek Cleanup. Two hundred twenty-five volunteers participated, an increase of 50 from the year before. It was encouraging to see that 65% of those registered were young children and teens. While participation has grown, the amount of litter to be collected has steadily decreased since the first DMWTTTO in Navasota two years ago. This indicates that KNB's anti-litter campaigns are becoming effective. Over 1,500 mini-flyers were taken to schools, and 50 posters were placed in businesses, churches and inside school buses. Two hundred fifty t-shirts adorned with the KNB, KTB, DMWT, GAC, and GAC National Sponsors' logos were given away, and 230 DMWT car litterbags filled with incentive items supplied by KTB and TCEQ were distributed to promote the Trash-Off. In addition, over 300 DMWT car litterbags were placed in fast food establishments to promote the "It's Take Out, Not Toss Out" campaign. TDCJ provided 288 man-hours to clean the downtown portion of Cedar Creek. The City's Code Enforcement Division reviews local loading docks to ensure compliance of a litter-free area. The Police Department, Sheriff's Office, and Judge have been informed of the penalties related to littering, and there has been an increase of enforcement by these agencies for environmental crimes.

**Illegal Dumping and Enforcement:** With two employees in the Code Enforcement Division, KNB and the City have achieved significant improvement in investigation and mitigation of both illegal dumping and abandoned vehicles. The KNB supported-code enforcement ordinance has resulted in the issuance of 113 violations for junk, debris, or other unsightly matter on lots or rights-of-way, with 31 citations issued for noncompliance during the past year. Sixty-three citations were issued for junk motor vehicles, with 53 vehicles removed and 10 removals pending. Grimes County officials promoted their new R.I.D. (Report Illegal Dumping) campaign. KNB held a press conference to provide the County officials an opportunity to speak on the RID campaign and to distribute press releases and posters about the program. The City demolished 3 dilapidated commercial buildings in downtown that posed a danger to the community. KNB and the City salvaged the rock from the buildings' exteriors to reuse for landscaping in flowerbeds and other projects throughout the community.

**Beautification and Property Improvement:** Seven members of the VFW Post #4006 conducted a tree planting ceremony at the Reflections Park honoring veterans of the Korean War. Martha's Bloomers nursery, along with 11 Junior Master Gardeners, conducted a tree planting ceremony at the John C. Webb Elementary School. The

Cemetery Committee and Youth Commission hosted the Oakland Cemetery Community Cleanup for “Make A Difference Day” (MADD). KNB distributed 35 MADD T-shirts to volunteers who trimmed trees and shrubs, planted 24 live oaks in the new sections of the cemetery, and collected 19 bags of litter. Eleven volunteers, consisting of KNB members, the mayor, and City staff, landscaped the front of the Navasota Public Library with 4 new trees, 5 yards of mulch and new flowerbeds. They also painted handrails for the handicap ramp. Forty-five Texas A&M Alpha Phi Omega fraternity members volunteered their time to weed, clean and mow the grounds of the Horlock History Center, the Cemetery, and Highway 6 underpass. Faith Christian Outreach Center received donations of paint, brushes and muscles as 15 volunteers donated 1,080 hours to repaint a needy family’s home on TRD. At the Grimes County Chamber of Commerce annual banquet, KNB member Billy Williams was presented with the *Grimes County Community Service Award* for her ongoing care of the downtown planter boxes. She continues to beautify Navasota by creating new flower beds at the cemetery, and landscaping of a downtown pathway. Most of the plants, stone and rock are purchased with her money. The GCMG’s and Municipal Judge have worked together to create a new project for Adult and Juvenile Services. This project allows adult and juvenile offenders to use their community service requirements to perform beautification projects. A Harvest Garden was planted behind the Navasota Police Station. Many donations were received in support of the project, such as plants, labor, and the property required for the garden. Jail inmates built a fence; a local plumber donated services for the water line; and the City contributes mulch and water. This project will allow offenders to learn gardening skills that will create a product that will be sold to benefit the Navasota Teen Court.

**Solid Waste Management:** BFI, the City’s solid waste provider, offers residents with an opportunity to dispose one large, bulky item on the second pickup of the week. The City provides a monthly curbside yardwaste collection. The City generated approximately 700 tons of clippings which is diverted into compost, saving both landfill space and the City \$17,570 in landfill disposal fees. Seven hundred twelve yards of compost were sold to residents and businesses and 256 yards were given away for community beautification projects. In addition, GCMG’s assisted KNB with a compost demonstration at Martha’s Bloomers Nursery which was given on TRD. Twenty TRD t-shirts, 2 compost bins, 2 certificates for free compost, and compost tea packages were given as

incentives. At the Annual Meeting of the Brazos Valley Council of Governments, KNB received the Regional Solid Waste Planning Award in recognition of placing second in KTB's GCAA. Recently, the City was approved for a reuse water permit from TCEQ. The City has been seeking the reuse water permit for the past three years to capture the water being deposited into Cedar Creek by the wastewater treatment plant to be used for irrigation purposes at the golf course and soccer fields. KNB is sponsoring two on-going recycling drives this year to recycle used computer ink-jet cartridges and cell phones. Six ink-jet cartridge collection boxes were placed at City offices, office supply stores and businesses to encourage recycling of used ink cartridges. One hundred one cartridges have been collected and will be recycled by a firm that will pay KNB up to \$3 per cartridge. A local Verizon Wireless dealer provided 5 collection boxes to support KNB's recycling efforts and fundraising initiatives. Twenty-three cell phones have been collected thus far through this effort. A private business in Navasota provides recycling services to the area. As a means of disposing household hazardous waste, the two Brazos Valley Solid Waste Management Agency HHW Collection Events were promoted by KNB through press releases to the newspaper and 15 event flyers posted in public buildings.

**Summation:** "Buy any amount of compost, get one yard *FREE*" was the offer that was made available to Navasota residential and commercial utility customers from March 1 to April 30. The compost is sold for \$5 per yard, and is available to everyone. KNB was able to offer the free compost through joint cooperation with the City, BVCOG, and TCEQ. In 2002, the City received a grant from TCEQ for the purchase of a compost-screening device. City Sanitation crews stockpiled chippings made from yard waste gathered during the City's monthly yard waste curbside collection. Approximately 700 tons of clippings were converted into compost, saving \$17,570 in waste disposal fees. The low price for compost encouraged the introduction and expansion of many gardens and flowerbeds. The City's compost touches nearly every community beautification project and program. Compost was provided to the Navasota Cemetery Committee for new flowerbeds, the Wood Factory's railroad landscape garden, and the Horlock Heritage Center to improve its existing landscaping. KNB has filled a void in the community and reminds everyone to be proud of Navasota. KNB is proud of its community's achievements and to accomplish so much in such a short time inspires KNB and its partners to continue to strive for excellence.

Navasota

Population Category #3